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From:MICHAL

5 overlapping areas, each having the same image of an object in the overlapping area as in the overlapping area of the next image part;

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correction parameter setting means for setting a correction parameter necessary to correct at least distortion of said plurality of image parts generated in each overlap area or a difference between the image parts, said correction parameter setting means being allowed to be manually operated by a user to set the correction parameter;

15 image correcting means for correcting at least one image part of said plurality of image parts in accordance with said set correction parameter to eliminate at least distortion of said plurality of image parts generated in each overlap area or the difference between the image parts;

20 image joining means for sequentially joining the plurality of image parts corrected by said image correcting means in said overlap area to restore said one composition;

image display means for displaying at least said plurality of image parts input by said image input means or said image parts corrected by said image correction means; and

25 optimal parameter setting means for determining, as an optimal value, the correction parameter set by said correction parameter setting means, when it is judged by the user from

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display by said image display means that correction is sufficiently performed by said image correcting means.

13. (Amended) An image processing method comprising:

an image input step of getting a plurality of image parts dividing one composition such that the image parts have overlapping areas, each having the same image of an object in the 5 overlapping area as in the overlapping area of the next image part;

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cont.*

a correction parameter setting step of setting a correction parameter necessary to correct at least image distortion or image difference occurring in the overlapping areas of each image part, 10 said correction parameter setting step being allowed to be manually operated by a user to set the correction parameter;

an image correcting step of correcting at least one of said plurality of image parts in accordance with said correction parameters, thereby to correct distortion of images or image 15 difference occurring in at least the overlapping area of each image part;

a composition restoring step of restoring said composition by sequentially combining said plurality of image parts corrected, one to another, with overlapping the same at 20 overlapping areas; and

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cancel.

an image displaying step for displaying at least said plurality of image parts input or said plurality of image parts corrected; and

25 an optimal parameter setting step for determining, as an optimal value, the correction parameter set by said correction parameter setting step, when it is judged by the user from display during said image displaying step that correction is sufficiently performed by said image correcting step.
